Reserved and protected forests

1237. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of land coming under reserved forests and protected forests, State-wise;

(b) the number of families and population residing in these forest lands;

(c) how many of them belong to Scheduled Tribes; and

(d) whether Government are proceeding to establish the right to forest land in favour of these families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) [illegible] of the total geographical area of the country is under reserved forests and protected forests. State-wise details of percentage of such forests are given in the statement (*see* below).

(b) and (c) The demographic details in respect of forest land are maintained by the respective State/Union Territory Government.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests issued guidelines on 18.09.1990 under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for grant of traditional rights of forest dwellers, including tribals, over forest land. Such traditional rights over forest land include settlement of disputed claims over forest land, regularization of eligible encroachment on forest land, conversion of forest villages into revenue villages and regularization of eligible pattas/grants/leases over forest land. Under the guidelines dated 18.09.1990, on the basis of the proposals received from the State Governments, about 3.66 lakh hectares of encroachment of forest land has been regularized and 511 forest villages have been converted into revenue villages, the beneficiaries thereof being predominantly tribals. This process of grant of traditional rights over forest land to forest dwellers, including tribals, came to a halt due to a ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on de-reservation of forest land as well as regularization of encroachment of forest land *vide* its orders dated 13.11.2000 and 23.11.2001 respectively. The Ministry is pursuing the matter with the Hon'ble Court to obtain a suitable modification in the orders so that grant of traditional rights over forest land could be continued further under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

However, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has introduced in Parliament a Bill titled 'The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill 2005' for grant of traditional rights over forest land to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes.

Statement

State-wise percentage of land coming under reserved forests and protected forests (according to the State of Forest Report 2003)

(Area in Sq. km.)

State/Union Territory	Geographical Area (GA)	Forest Area (FA)			Percentage
		Reserved Forest	Protected Forest	Total FA	Total FA (of GA)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	2,75,069	50479	12365	62844	22.84
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	10178	9536	19814	23.54
Assam	78438	18060	0	18060	23.02
Bihar	94163	693	5779	6472	6.87
Chhattisgarh	135191	25782	24036	49818	36.85
Delhi	1483	78	7	85	5.73
Goa	3702	237	822	1059	28.60
Gujarat	196022	14155	395	14550	7.42
Haryana	44212	249	1158	1407	3.18
Himachal Pradesh	55673	1896	33043	34939	62.75
Jammu & Kashmir	222236	2551	17643	20194	9.08
Jharkhand	79714	4387	19185	23572	29.57
Karnataka	191791	29560	35585	33135	17.27
Kerala	38863	11098	170	11268	28.99
Madhya Pradesh	308245	58734	35587	94321	30.59
Maharashtra	307713	49217	8196	57413	18.65
Manipur	22327	1467	4171	5638	25.25
Meghalaya	22429	1112	12	1124	5.01
Mizoram	21081	7909	3568	11477	54.44
Nagaland	16579	308	508	816	4.32
Orissa	155707	26329	15525	41854	26.88

1	2	3	4	5	6
Punjab	50362	44	1137	1181	2.34
Rajasthan	342239	11860	17652	29512	8.62
Sikkim	7096	5452	389	5841	88.31
Tamil Nadu	130058	19388	2183	21571	16.58
Tripura	10486	3588	664	4252	40.54
Uttar Pradesh	240928	11078	2425	13503	5.60
Uttaranchal	53483	23827	10673	34500	64.50
West Bengal	88752	7054	3772	10826	12.19
Andaman & Nicobar	8249	2929	4242	7171	86.93
Chandigarh	114	31	0	31	27.19
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	199	5	204	41.54
Daman & Diu	112	0	1	1	0.89
Lakshadweep	32	0	0	0	0.00
Pondicherry	480	0	0	0	0.00
TOTAL	3287263	399919	238434	638353	19.41

Violation of wildlife laws

†1238. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the laws related to wildlife are being violated on a large scale as a result of which Government's schemes related to wildlife are getting adversely affected;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of violations of wildlife laws that took place during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that these laws are being violated by influential persons and the accused get escaped easily due to pressure from Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Madam. Ministry has not received any report of large scale violation of wildlife laws due to which the Government schemes for wildlife are getting affected adversely.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.